

1949

MEETING OF ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

February 11, 1949 5 p.m. in Unfinished Building

Members present: Messrs. Milner, Hamilton, Cabaniss, Ashford, Whitworth
Bloodworth, Elder, Wier, and Gunn. Also
Mrs. Cabaniss, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Calloway,
And Mrs. Wilkins, Chairman.

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, and the minutes read and approved. Mrs. Wilkins called for a report on finances by Mr. Milner, Finance Chairman, who reported for Clarke, Miss Townes, who reported for Oconee in Mrs. Downs' absence, and Mrs. Cabaniss for Oglethorpe County.

Mr. Gunn moved that Mrs. Wilkins appoint a committee of three persons to study the bids for Venetian blinds and toward the contract. Motion seconded and carried. Wier, Milner, & Bloodworth were appointed to the committee.

Mrs. Wilkins reported that she had authorized the refinishing of the stairway, since she had been able to get additional donations.

Mr. Gunn reported that Mr. Hubert Owens had accepted the Board's invitation to work out a landscape plan and had shifted his schedule of projects around so that they could start on February 28th. It would take about two weeks. They will submit two or three plans. The cost to the Board would be \$75, as it is customary to donate that sum to the scholarship fund when the landscape architecture works out a plan.

Mrs. Wilkins discussed the need to change the inner doors to double action doors, and asked the entire board to look at them and see the desirability of changing them. After some discussion of the doors Mrs. Wilkins appointed a committee of three to advise her on the problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Townes
Mary E. Townes, Secretary

Wilkins
Mr. Futton
B.iley
James
Kohler
Kinn
Bloodworth

April 4, 1949

Discussion of possible contributors.

" " garage
" " Bookmobile

Bloodworth, Chm. Bookmobile Committee

Billy Wier

Mary Townes
Investigate & get bids.
Report to May meeting

" of plans for landscaping

MEETING OF THE ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD - May 27, 1949

5 p.m. Library Conference Room

Members present: Mr. Wier, Vice Chairman, presiding; Mr. Gunn; Mr. Bloodworth, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Mayne Elder, Mrs. R. H. Downs, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Ashford, Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Cabaniss

Mr. Bloodworth, chairman of the Bookmobile committee, reported that the Swanton Ivy bid of \$2145.40 net with an A.C. Miller body was the low bid. The present bookmobile would be turned in to him. The discount he was allowing from the gross price was approximately \$655, providing the library can have exemption from the federal tax. (The Library has been able to get exemption in the past by registering the equipment as countybought) After some discussion, Mr. Troutman Wilson moved and Mr. Bobby Brooks seconded that the truck be bought from Ivy. Mr. Gunn amended the motion to state that the committee be authorized to step up the tire size and make other necessary adjustments. There was further discussion of financing the purchase. Mrs. Cabaniss reported that Oglethorpe County has raised \$723.15 toward their share, and Mrs. Downs reported that Oconee County has raised \$249.89. Miss Townes said that Clarke County's share could come from the current appropriations. It was agreed that more money could be raised in the fall to finish paying for the bookmobile, if we could find the cash to buy it now. The motion to buy the bookmobile now from Swanton Ivy (1 ton Dodge) as amended by Mr. Gunn was passed unanimously.

Mrs. McHatton's report from the nominating committee was read by the secretary, as Mrs. McHatton was out of town. The nominations were as follows: Mrs. John J. Wilkins, Chairman; Mr. Robert Gunn, Vice Chairman; Mr. W. W. Wier, Secretary. Mr. Wilson moved that these three officers be elected. Mrs. Downs seconded, and the motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Hodgson sent a report that he had secured the donation of an iron fence, the same design as the Presbyterian Church fence, to be erected on the front mall and connect the church property with the library building.

The Board considered the landscape design worked out by Mr. Ownsa's department as very good. Mr. Wier suggested that the garage be put back on line with the building. General agreement was voiced. Mr. Gunn moved, Mr. Bloodworth seconded, that the present garage be torn down, and that Mr. Troutman Wilson be asked to take charge of finding some one to do it for the material in it, if not for a price. Motion carried.

Mr. Wier reminded the Board that we had not given the Hooper Sunday School class of the Presbyterian Church a definite answer to their request to use the Library for a meeting room on Sunday morning until their building program went through. Members of the Board had expressed opinions, but the matter had not been voted on. Mr. Milner moved, Mr. Gunn seconded that because the precedent would be set by granting this request the Board should refuse permission. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Townes

MEETING OF THE ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD - Aug. 3, 1949

Members present: Mr. Gunn, Vice-President, presiding; Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Wier, Mr. Bloodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Cabaniss, Mr. Harry Elder, Mr. Wilson. Also Miss Townes

Mr. Hodgson, Chairman of Grounds Committee, reported that the City and County were going to set up the iron fence for us, and that the City would pave the driveway entrance from street to sidewalk. He said that he had obtained the water hose and sprinkler from Mr. Crimes, and that he would get more lawn seed in September for winter grass.

Billy Wier reported that he & Nelson had approved 10,000 for County appropriation.
Miss Townes reported that the Bookmobile was almost ready, and that we should be able to take delivery on it Aug. 29. Mr. Gunn appointed the committee to assist Miss Townes in making the arrival of the new bookmobile "an event", with the three county commissioners (Clarke, Oconee and Oglethorpe) invited to participate. The Committee should consist of Mr. Wilson, Chairman, Mr. Bloodworth, and Mr. Wier.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Garage Committee (consisting of Mr. Wier and himself) had obtained two bids for the remodelling of the garage, one for \$370 from Mr. Caskey, and the other \$372. After discussion the motion was made by Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. Elder that the contract be awarded to Mr. Caskey, with suggestion that the paint on the garage should match the house.

The Board agreed that it was a good idea to participate in the Agricultural Fair this year, and Mr. Gunn appointed a Fair Committee to help Miss Townes with arrangements: Mrs. McHatton, Chr., Mrs. Cabaniss, and Mrs. Downs.

Billy Wier was asked to explore the possibility of having picture postcards of the Library put on sale through regular commercial channels.

Mr. Gunn appointed a Personnel Committee to advise Miss Townes on staff problems: Mr. Hodgson, Chr., Mrs. Wilkins, and Mrs. McHatton.

On the recommendation of Miss Townes, the Board unanimously approved a motion that ^{non-residents} applications to use the Library be accepted without the usual deposit (\$3) required of transients ~~if the~~ non-residents ~~who~~ are regularly employed within the counties of Clarke, Oconee, and Oglethorpe.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary T. Townes
Secretary

ATHENS CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

September 6, 1949 5 p.m.

Place: Library Conference room

Members present: Mr. Gunn, Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. McHatton,
Mr. Wilson, Mr. Bloodworth, Mr. Hodgson

Minutes were read and approved.

Mrs. Wilkins said that she felt the time had come for her to resign as Chairman of the Library Board, and had sent a letter to that effect to Mr. Gunn, Vice Chairman. She expected to have to be away a good deal, and she felt that the Board had shown their readiness to take more of the responsibility. Mr. Gunn, Vice Chairman, had consented to take over in the event of her resignation, she said, and pointed out how Mr. Gunn is eminently suited to be Chairman of the Board, from personal qualifications as well as his leadership in civic affairs. He had had a term of service on the Board several years ago, and during the recent months had been Building Chairman. Mrs. McHatton moved and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion that the Board make Mrs. Wilkins chairman emeritus, since it was she who had brought about almost singlehanded the development of the Athens Regional Library. Mr. Bloodworth offered the amendment that the post of Chairman Emeritus be made contingent on membership on the Library Board, and there was general agreement that this was desirable.

Mr. Hodgson was asked to take the chair. He called for one motion: that the Board accept the resignation of Mrs. Wilkins as Chairman of the Board, and elect her to the position of Chairman Emeritus with active status as a member of the Board, and that Mr. Gunn be elected Chairman. This motion was made by Mrs. McHatton, seconded by Mr. Bloodworth, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Gunn then took the chair. Mr. Hodgson moved, and Mrs. Wilkins seconded the motion that the Board put on record a commendation of the Library staff for the gracious spirit of efficient hospitality that they had developed in the Library. This was passed unanimously.

After brief discussion of the library grounds, Mr. Hodgson moved and Mrs. McHatton seconded the motion that the Grounds committee ask Dr. and Mrs. Pusey to help develop the grounds of the Library

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Townes
Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF ATHENS CLARKE COUNTY *and*
REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

October 28, 1949

A special meeting was called by Chairman R. R. Gunn at 5 o'clock in the office of the Library. Those present were:

Chairman Gunn, Mayor Jack Wells, Mr. Morton Hodgson, Mr. Harry Elder, Chairman of Clarke County Commissioners, Mr. Richard Bloodworth, Mr. Hogan of Oconee County and Mr. W. W. Wier.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gunn, who presented to the Board Miss Towns' request that her resignation become effective on November 30, 1949, Miss Towns having received an excellent position with the United States State Department as Librarian with the American Library in Manila, P.I. Miss Towns told the Board of the wonderful proposition which the Department of State had made her and of the wonderful opportunity the new job affords.

A motion was made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Bloodworth that the Board accept with regret, the resignation of Miss Towns. This motion pass unanimously.

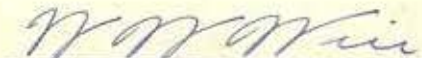
Upon the recommendation of Miss Towns, the Board interviewed Mrs. ^{Eugenia} ~~Mary~~ Jones Stevens, an experienced librarian, who has the necessary qualifications and who agreed to accept the job as Head Librarian on a temporary basis, starting December 1, 1949 at the salary Miss Towns was receiving and she would maintain this job until a qualified librarian could be obtained.

A motion was made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Bloodworth that Mrs. Stevens be accepted on the above terms, this motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Gunn appointed a committee consisting of Mayor Wells, Mr. Elder, Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Bloodworth to draw up a resolution to be presented to Miss Towns when she leaves.

Chairman Gunn appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Bloodworth and Mr. Wier to obtain for Miss Towns a gift of appreciation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY
ATHENS, GEORGIA

October 27, 1949

Mr. R. R. Gunn, Chairman
Athens Regional Library Board
Athens, Georgia

Dear Mr. Gunn:

Please accept my resignation from the position of Director of the Athens Regional Library as of December 1. I have just received an appointment to the Foreign Service of the U. S. State Department as Librarian, and an assignment to Manila which is to take effect as soon as possible.

The three years and four months that I have worked with the Athens Regional Library have been valuable experience, and I shall carry away with me a happy and treasured memory. You and the other members of the Library Board have been wonderful to know and to work with.

You and other members of the Library Board have had the idea, with which I am whole-hearted in sympathy, that the public library should be not just a storehouse of books, but that it should be an educational institution that reaches out to every element of the community with materials of information, education, and wholesome recreation. I have been happy to try to develop ways to carry out that idea, and within the limits of our means you and the library staff and I have accomplished something that has taken hold on the imagination of the community. In many ways it is painful to me to move on to another field, as it has been such a pleasure to work with you in this important community service to the Athens area.

Of course I shall be glad to help you find a successor who can carry on the executive position without too much of a jolt. As Acting Director, until the Board can find some one on a permanent basis, I would like to recommend Mrs. Eugenia Jones Stephens, a professional librarian of ability and good experience, who is available for a few months if you wish to offer her the position.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Townes
Mary E. Townes
Director

October 28, 1949

Miss Mary E. Townes,
Athens, Georgia

Dear Miss Townes:

Following your very lovely speech to the Board of Directors of the Athens Regional Library resigning your position to accept a most important post in Manila, we the undersigned were instructed by the Chairman of the Board to write you this rather personal letter, copy of which is to be spread on the minutes of the Board.

As we try to express our appreciation of your wonderful work here in our community the three short years you have been with us, and the far reaching influence of your work in the surrounding communities, it is very difficult to really let you know how deeply we feel about it.

Under your guidance our library has really become an inspirational center in our city and section, a place of beauty and an encouragement toward better living. The definite cultural atmosphere is really felt and this whole result is due to the high plane on which you have placed the entire program of the library.

Your modest efficiency and lovely personality will be greatly missed by each one of us, but we are wishing you God-speed in your new field of service and may your move be a happy and successful one, and you will always know on your return to America that we hope it will be a return to Athens.

Very sincerely yours,

Morton S. Hodgson
B.R. Bloodworth
Harry H. Elder

MSH/S

Committee from the Board

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY
ATHENS, GEORGIA

November 15, 1949

Mr. R. R. Gunn, Chairman
Athens Regional Library Board
Athens, Georgia

Dear Mr. Gunn:

The committee that you appointed from the Library Board to write me a letter of commendation wrote one, a very very nice letter that I shall always treasure, and presented it to me a short time ago. At the same time they presented me with a beautiful travelling alarm clock. This is a much needed article, and a very decorative one. I shall enjoy it immensely!

Of course I thanked the two members of the Board, Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Wier, when they gave it to me, but through you I would like to convey my thanks to other members of the Board who joined in this gift. I would like to thank each one in person, but if they would rather be thanked as a group, I shall be glad to do that if I may.

I very much appreciate the lovely way you and the rest of the Board have dealt with me, and the interest and support you have given my efforts towards the development of the library. I can imagine no nicer group of people to work with, and I hope that some day in the future I shall be able to be associated with you again. The field of library work in Georgia will always interest me, but I am sure that the three and a half years I have spent in Athens will be among my most pleasant memories.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Townes
Mary E. Townes, Director

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

November 21, 1949

Members present: R. R. Gunn, Chr., Mr. Roy Ward, Mr. Troutman Wilson, Mr. Thomas Milner, Mr. H. Whitworth (Bogart), Mr. Morton Hodgson, Mr. Richard Bloodworth, Mr. W. W. Wier, Mr. W. H. Ashford, Mrs. J. W. Bailey, Mrs. John J. Wilkins, Jr., Also present: Miss Mary E. Townes and Mrs. Ralph Stephens.

Mr. Gunn stated that he had received a letter of thanks from Miss Townes for the letter she had received from the Board and for the gift of a travelling alarm clock. He asked that the letters be put in the Minutes of the Board.

Miss Townes presented the Budget for 1950. Mr. Bloodworth moved, and Mr. Hodgson seconded that the budget be adopted. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hodgson reported that Mr. Charlie Rowland would plant cedars at the back of the lawn to form a shield between the library and the house at the rear.

Mr. Gunn discussed the recommendation of Miss Sarah Maret to be the Director of the Athens Regional Library. Her qualifications in education, personality and experience are all superior. Her knowledge of Athens and the Athens area would make the adjustment very easy, and be an asset to her in the position. The Board members seemed eager to "call" Miss Maret. Mr. Hodgson, as chairman of the Personnel Committee, moved and Mr. Wilson seconded that the Board offer the job to Miss Maret at the present salary at the earliest date she could come. Motion was unanimously carried. The Personnel Committee, i. e. Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. McHatton, with Mr. Hodgson as chairman, was asked to "prosecute the offer" to Miss Maret.

The Board agreed that it would be advisable to look into the matter of screens for the library before next summer, and Mr. Gunn appointed the committee of Mr. Wier, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Bloodworth, Chairman, to investigate the type needed and the cost, and to get donations if possible.

Mrs. Wilkins suggested the need for beautifying the front of the library building between sidewalk and street, and proposed planting pansy beds. She offered to give a hundred pansy plants, and Mr. Milner and Mr. Gunn offered some also. Mrs. Wilkins proposed spending some money from the donation fund for small boxwood plants to outline the beds. There seemed to be agreement that this would be desirable, although no vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Townes
Mary E. Townes
Secretary